DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 335 031 IR 053 585

TITLE Colorado Information Connection. Final Report. A Summary Report of Colorado's 1990 Activities in Support of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

INSTITUTION Colorado State Dept. of Education, Denver.; Colorado State Library, Denver.

PUB DATE 90

NOTE 20p.

PUB TYPE Collected Works - Conference Proceedings (021) -- Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Committees; *Conferences; Financial Support; Futures (of Society); Library Associations; Library Cooperation; *Library Role; Literacy Education; *Organizations (Groups); *Planning; Statewide Planning

IDENTIFIERS *Colorado; Family Literacy; *White House Conference Library Info Services

ABSTRACT

This summary of some of the salient features of the Second Colorado Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services begins with "A Letter to the Future," by project director Kimberly Taylor, who provides practical advice for future conference planners. The report then presents a summary of the conference process, which included seven Speakouts, three Regional Conferences, and the Governor's Conference, held in Vail, Colorado, October 8-10, 1990). A timeline for the various meetings is also included, as well as a list of the steering committee members; "quotable quotes" from the conference keynote speakers; and the names and addresses of the White House Conference Delegates and their alternates. Concluding the document are the 23 conference resolutions which fall under the following broad headings: (1) intellectual freedom; (2) equal access; (3) family literacy; (4) partnerships; (5) global marketplace; (6) networking; (7) national access; (8) user friendliness; (9) literacy mission; (10) library education; (11) missions and marketing; (12) information centers; (13) cooperative programs; (14) librarian general; (15) national campaign; (16) productive citizens; (17) information literacy; (18) diversity; (19) diverse work force; (20) scientific and technical information; (21) federal incentives; (22) clearinghouse; and (23) diversified funding. (MAB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

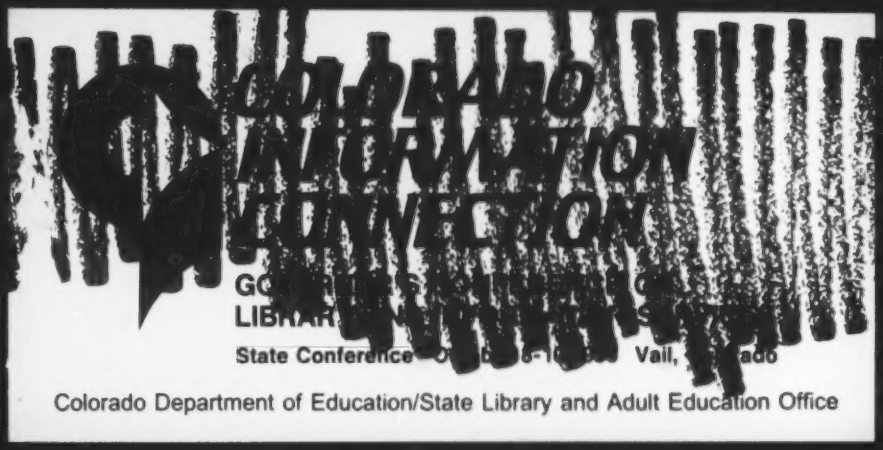
ED335031

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.



IR053585

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

D. Bassett

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

IR

COLORADO INFORMATION CONNECTION

FINAL REPORT

A Summary Report of Colorado's 1990 Activities
in support of
The White House Conference on Library and Information Services

Table of Contents

A Letter To The Future	1
Process Summary	3
Timeline	5
List of Steering Committee Members	6
Quotable Quotes from Governor's Conference Speakers	7
White House Conference Delegates and Alternates	9
Colorado Resolutions	10

A LETTER TO THE FUTURE

Dear Project Coordinator and Steering Committee of 2003:

Dust this off and let me say hello to tomorrow! If history is still repeating itself in the next century, you are no doubt preparing for the third White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Congratulations! The first step is always to see what was done before and I hope this document will spare you the agony of sifting through the numerous other COLORADO INFORMATION CONNECTION boxes.

If I had it to do all over again, there are things I would do the same, things I would do more of and some things I would not do. Here they are.

The Same:

* Develop an actively involved Steering Committee that actually feels ownership of the process;
* Involve as many people from outside of the library community as possible;
* Create a promotion and make it sound fun and forward looking;
* Think of all the people you admire in the world and make them your speakers;
* Put as many non-librarians as possible in the roles of facilitators, moderators, discussion leaders and visible program people; and
* Break all the rules of how people run library conferences.

The Same and More:

* Strive for at least 50% of the Steering Committee and participants along the way to be outside of the library community;
* Promote, promote, promote. Totally gear the program and topics to the interests of the public. The library community will come anyway;
* More partnerships with business and community groups;
* Invite skeptics into the process and dismiss the cynics. The skeptics will allow you to avoid pitfalls and seize opportunities. The cynics are just an energy drain; and,
* Take risks!

Experience is the best teacher items:

* Eliminate the 7 Speakouts and assume responsibility for no more than 4 events. There is no value in creating yet another forum where the library community talks with itself. Speakouts tended to be that way because they were grassroots events and you cannot get the very best minds of Colorado for 11 things. You can spread the very best minds over four things;
* Regardless of what the national sponsors say they want in terms of outcomes, I would create my own and then fit them in with whatever Washington wants later. My focus

would be state outcomes and I would stay away from untouchable words like "resolution" and "platform";

* My program in 2003 might be to create a number of groups (3 or 4) and everyone would be charged with coming up with one idea to make a difference. Then, the groups would need to develop an action plan. The large group sessions would be designed to get buy-in on all four action plans and people would go away with actual responsibility to make one part of one of the plans work. It would be results based rather than idea based;
* Disallow any discussion of the woes of declining tax revenues and visions that are based on more tax dollars; and
* You will create the process in whatever amount of time you give yourself. If you allow 18 months, it will take 18 months. If you allow 6 months, it will take 6 months.

To this missive, I add a disclaimer on behalf of the Steering Committee. The thoughts contained herein are all mine, and though surely some are shared, I am equally certain we are not all of one mind in our assessment. All that said, successes and failures in mind, I would urge you to pretty much ignore what we did and create your own thing. The times are different, the players are different and the possibilities are infinite. Good luck and goodbye from the past!

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Taylor
The Erstwhile Project Director of 1990

PROCESS SUMMARY

The Colorado State Library hired Kimberly Taylor as the person the buck stops with for the state's conference. With input from state library staff, the library systems and the Governor's office, Kimberly assembled a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was an action committee responsible for major policy decisions. They met on a monthly basis beginning in November of 1989, with the last formal meeting held in December of 1990. The Steering Committee elected Bernie Margolis to be its chairperson. He worked closely with Kimberly Taylor, the State Coordinator.

COLORADO INFORMATION CONNECTION: Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services (CIC) was chosen as the official name of our state process. The name, logo and design for CIC was seen as a way to create a unified look, give the project a solid identity and suggest the future.

The Steering Committee of the Colorado Governor's Conference planned and implemented seven Speakouts, three Regional Conferences and the Governor's Conference. The Speakouts were held in each library system throughout the state. There were speakers and activities designed to stimulate conversation around the three designated theme areas of Literacy, Democracy and Productivity. The Steering Committee worked aggressively to guarantee broad-based public representation at the Speakouts.

The second step was three Regional Conferences. They were held in Grand Junction, Denver and Pueblo. These were day long affairs designed to stimulate thinking and provide for the selection of delegates to the Governor's Conference. 160 delegates were chosen out of the three regions. Well-known people from each region were brought in to offer insight into the themes. People were chosen based on their expertise and influence in the regions they represented and their lack of connections to the library community. The conferences were highly promoted and open to the public.

The major activity was the Colorado Governor's Conference itself. It ran from Monday, October 8 through Wednesday, October 10 at the Westin Hotel in Vail. The conference immediately followed the annual meeting of the Colorado Library Association. There were four goals. First, we wanted the delegates to be exposed to stimulating, provocative speakers. Included in our lineup were: National Public Radio's Scott Simon; futurist Kim Long; historian and scholar Theodore Roszak; author Clive Cussler; Scholar Clay Jenkinson impersonating Thomas Jefferson; American Booksellers Association President Joyce Meskis; and author Ellen Gilchrist. Secondly, we wanted people to have fun. The tone of the conference was personable and warm. Lighter side activities included an autographing/dessert reception with well-known authors and a murder mystery party presented by a professional theater company out of Colorado Springs. The third goal was to develop and debate innovative resolutions to send to the White House Conference. The

majority of the work was done in small group sessions with large group debate and prioritizing done over four hours on the last day. The final goal was to select eight delegates to represent Colorado at the White House Conference. The eight were selected by the 160 delegates to the Governor's Conference. The four alternates were chosen later by the Steering Committee.

Overall, Colorado's activities received a lot of attention nationally because of our emphasis on quality speakers, our ability to raise almost $27,000 in cash and $76,000 in in-kind services from private donors, and the creative promotional venues we used to spread the word.

TIMELINE

SPEAKOUTS:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
May 5	South Fork	1:00-4:00 p.m.
May 9	Colorado Springs	6:30-9:30 p.m.
May 12	Grand Junction	1:00-4:00 p.m.
May 16	Greeley	6:30-9:30 p.m.
May 17	Denver	6:30-9:30 p.m.
May 19	Glenwood Springs	1:00-4:00 p.m.
May 23	Pueblo	6:30-9:30 p.m

REGIONAL CONFERENCES:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
August 25	Grand Junction	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
September 8	Denver	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
September 15	Pueblo	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE:

October 8-10, 1990	Westin Hotel Vail, Colorado

STEERING COMMITTEE

Senator Bonnie Allison
Edgewater

Mary Babcock
High Plains System Representative
Loveland Public Library

Nancy Bolt
State Librarian
Colorado Department of Education

Cherish Boswell
Student Representative
High School Redirection

Lenore Bright
WHCLIST Representative
Pagosa Springs

Betty Flaten
CEMA Representative
Jachem East Elementary

Rick Friddle, Library Director
CLA Representative
Pikes Peak Community College

Russell Fulmer (ex-officio member)
President-Elect CLA
Colorado School of Mines

Cynthia Gockley
Three Rivers System Representative
Glenwood Springs

Doris Hass
Library Friends Group
Boulder

Josephine Hall
Central Colorado System Representative
Broomfield

Susan Hartman
Pathfinder System Representative
Grand Junction

Senator Sally Hopper
Golden

Keith Lance
Director of Research
Colorado Department of Education

Arnie Langberg
Director of Alternative Education
Denver Public Schools

Bernie Margolis
Plains and Peaks System Representative
Director, Pikes Peak Library District
Steering Committee Chairperson

Julie Metz
Southwest System Representative
Monte Vista

Beverly Moore
Arkansas Valley System Representative
University of Southern Colorado

Barbara Romersheuser
Eagle Valley Middle School Librarian

Jeff Rundles
Editor, Colorado Business

Kimberly Taylor
Project Director
Colorado Department of Education

Mary Willoughby
Literacy Action Program
Colorado Department of Education

Trish Yancey
Corporate Representative
Information Handling Services

Hank Zentgraf
IBM

Jim Zigarelli (ex-officio member)
Promotion Specialist

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Below are some of the morsels shared with us by a few of our keynote speakers.

"...one gets the impression that if all of the functionally illiterate were suddenly literate, there would no longer by an education problem in this country, which is wrong. The bad news is that even without a problem of illiteracy, we'd still have a national disaster in education. The problem is that schools have remained much the same while the economy and society have changed and the country's educational needs have become much greater. The truth is that the national school system currently seems incapable of meeting modern needs."
Tom Steen
Director, Archuleta County Education Center
Wolf Creek Speakout

"What we seem to be sacrificing with achieving only daily minimal requirements for literacy is the quality of interior reflection, of literature, the still small voice likened to our conscience. It's not about to disappear, but the still small voice, I think, is in some danger of becoming a specialty item."
Scott Simon
Weekend Edition Host
National Public Radio
Governor's Conference Speaker

"Someone else's standards are not my standards or yours. But if we do not like something, we can turn it off, not go to a museum to see it, or stay out of that particular library stack. But let's not support someone's move to bar us from ideas. Each of us is a community of one."
Betsy Marston
High Country News Editor
Grand Junction Speakout
White House Conference Delegate

"Thinking in the highest sense of the word has little to do with information, and still less to do with expensive information-processing machinery. It has everything to do with knowing how to deal with ideas. And that requires plain old-fashioned literacy -- the ability to read, write, listen and speak with critical awareness. After all, the information-processing model of the mind so highly touted by the computer scientists ("the artificial intelligentsia", as Joseph Weizenbaum has wryly called them) is itself an idea about the mind -- though not a very good one. It did not get pieced together from some pre-existing body of information. It emerged -- like Plato's conception of the mind, or John Locke's, or Rene Descartes' -- as a philosophical hunch, an

insight, a vision. In the natural order of things, it is ideas -- whether in the form of judgements, evaluations, interpretations, theories, beauties of form and structure -- that take precedence over facts and figures."
Theodore Roszak
Author and historian from the University of California
Governor's Conference Speaker

"...when you walk through the doors of the library, you should walk into an alternative world where alternative constitutions are available. A world where alternative social structures are articulated, where alternative approaches to economy are dreamed of and where actual fictional utopias are available so that citizens can see the range of possibilities for human life and happiness. The biggest mistake that a people can make is the mistake that Voltaire talks about in Candide. That mistake is to believe that we live in the best of all possible nations, have the best of all possible constitutions and the best of all possible worlds. Nothing could be further from the truth. The library is 'the house of the alternatives'."
Thomas Jefferson as portrayed by Clay Jenkinson.
Thomas Jefferson was the 3rd President of the United States.
Clay Jenkinson is a scholar who appears in numerous forums as Thomas Jefferson.
Jenkinson's Jefferson appeared at two Regional Conferences and the Governor's Conference.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE COLORADO DELEGATES

Library/Information Professionals

Camila Alire
Auraria Library
11th and Lawrence Streets
Denver, Colorado 80204
303/556.2683

Betty Flaten (Alternate)
Library Media Specialist
Jachem Elementary
10951 North Harlan
Westminster, Colorado 80021
303/466.1931

Bernard Margolis, Director
Pikes Peak Library District
5550 North Union Boulevard
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918
719/531.6333

Trustees/Friends

Dr. Teshome Abebe
Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Southern Colorado
2200 Bonforte Boulevard
Pueblo, Colorado 81001-4901
719/549.2313

Juanita P. Cisneros
3865 Boulder Drive
Loveland, Colorado 80538
303/663.3642

Larry Wilkinson (Alternate)
Pres., Board of Trustees
Post Office Box 2189
Telluride, Colorado 81435
303/728.3301

Public Officials

Senator Bonnie J. Allison
State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203
303/866.4866

Lorraine Anderson (Alternate)
5503 Marshall
Arvada, Colorado 80002
303/442.1013

Representative John J. Irwin
State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203
303/866.2947

Citizens

Betsy Marston, Editor
High Country News
Box 1090
Paonia, Colorado 81428
415/497.7205

Jeff Rundles, Editor (Alternate)
Colorado Business
7009 South Potomac
Englewood, Colorado 80112
303/397.7600

Suellen White
Information Handling Services
15 Inverness Way East
Englewood, Colorado 80150
303/397.2813

COLORADO'S RESOLUTIONS

One of the purposes of the Governor's Conference was to develop and prioritize recommendations to be taken to the White House Conference in July of 1991. Twenty-three resolutions were brought to the Governor's Conference delegates for consideration. Listed below are the resolutions, in rank order, as passed by the delegates.

1. INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

WHEREAS, libraries are guardians of the 1st Amendment and its guarantee of intellectual freedom; and

WHEREAS, democracy depends upon an informed citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the library must provide information to enable citizens to think critically; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT libraries have an obligation to provide access to **ALL** ideas and information and resist all attempts to suppress such access or such information.

2. EQUAL ACCESS

WHEREAS, in a democracy, people have equal rights and privileges, and

WHEREAS, published knowledge is a necessary basis for informed decision making; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT libraries have a duty and obligation to improve and expand services and collections, and should eliminate barriers to at-risk and special populations including, but not limited to, groups based on age, gender, race/ethnicity, economic status, religion, culture, marital status, sexual orientation, health status, physical or mental disability, geographic isolation, transportation access, or education/literacy level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, libraries must not discriminate on such basis in the provision of services and employment practices.

3. FAMILY LITERACY

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, to promote family literacy, libraries should participate in programs which provide pre-school programs with a childcare component, become partners with schools and businesses, promote the joy of reading, and instruct librarians to detect signs of illiteracy.

4. PARTNERSHIPS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT through a combination of private and government funds, libraries, schools and others should establish cooperative literacy programs, which identify target populations, create outreach programs, and provide literacy services.

5. GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

WHEREAS, a global marketplace now exists; and

WHEREAS, American workers and business, small and large, are a part of this global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Americans are woefully ignorant of foreign cultures; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT libraries acquire, distribute, and make available services and information to promote cross-cultural understanding which is essential to global market participation.

6. NETWORKING

WHEREAS, access to information is necessary to the learning process; and

WHEREAS, the sharing of information leads to the more effective use of limited resources; and

WHEREAS, information services available from business, academic, public and school libraries should provide comprehensive information to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for partnerships between libraries, businesses, schools and community agencies; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT a national networking policy be established to create, share and standardize access to databases of all types and sizes of libraries in all locations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the potential for productive resource sharing be accelerated by THE creation of an electronic inter-library loan network.

7. NATIONAL ACCESS

WHEREAS, the general public, schools and businesses need current information on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, information includes, but is not limited to, books, magazines, music, technology, databases, global information, culture and ideas; and

WHEREAS, libraries include public, school, academic and special libraries; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, by 1997, **Access Colorado** will become a model for the rest of the country so that there is a "National Highway to Access" available to all citizens via 50% of our nation's libraries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all libraries should be barrier-free; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a National Library Card will be available to all citizens and will be honored by all libraries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT every newborn will receive a National Library Card; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT every library has a responsibility for developing its own collection, which should be supplemented through nationwide networking.

8. USER FRIENDLINESS

WHEREAS, libraries are the information centers; and

WHEREAS, many citizens feel intimidated by libraries; and

WHEREAS, some adults and children are fearful about asking questions of librarians; and

WHEREAS, enhanced use of the library as a community resource could lead to enhanced productivity; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, strategies be developed to make libraries more user-friendly and that their value to the community be marketed broadly.

9. LITERACY MISSION

WHEREAS, the mission of a library should be to participate in the lifelong learning process; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, libraries, in conjunction with public and private groups, will create an inviting, non-hostile environment toward all members of their respective communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT libraries will establish and market programs to encourage people to read and become more literate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT libraries will establish preventive programs that promote literacy and which are aimed at all children, especially those at risk.

10. LIBRARY EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the productivity of business, industry and individuals is dependent upon access to accurate and current information; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for all libraries to provide quality information services; and

WHEREAS, information provided is dependent upon the staff that delivers it; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT accessible library education and continuing education including staff training and development, be a priority of the national library community.

11. MISSIONS & MARKETING

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, to become more productive, libraries will determine their missions, roles and responsibilities in close cooperation with realistic marketing goals and objectives. Every effort should be made to involve marketing professionals in a volunteer or corporately funded capacity.

12. INFORMATION CENTERS

WHEREAS, the library of today is not ready to address the needs of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, libraries must become information centers; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the nation's libraries to use available networking technology; and

WHEREAS, library access and outreach to rural populations is essential; and

WHEREAS, we want to ensure access to all regardless of physical ability; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, libraries must strive to become centers of information, education and culture that ensure access to the diversity and variety of knowledge.

13. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in order to have a fully literate society, libraries will initiate or join in cooperative community and family literacy programs and develop adult literacy collections.

14. LIBRARIAN GENERAL

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Librarian of Congress should be upgraded to a cabinet-level position of "Librarian General". The position should include the following duties and powers:

to preserve and make available through a national network the written cultural heritage of the country; to provide free and ready access to this information; to promote free public access to information in the public domain; to set a standard for disseminating public information; to preserve, promote and protect First Amendment rights; to develop a standard and implement a national network of public, academic, special, private and school libraries; and, to provide for a national clearinghouse for literacy programs.

15. NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, a national campaign coordinated by a joint public/private coalition should focus on removing the stigma of illiteracy.

16. PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS

WHEREAS, productive citizens know how to find, evaluate and use information; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, all libraries must cooperate to provide services which include, but are not limited to, providing electronic networking resources by reducing telecommunication fees, participating in established interlibrary loan programs, and teaching students to be effective library users by providing integrated information skills instruction throughout life.

17. INFORMATION LITERACY

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, libraries will develop and provide programs for patrons of all ages that equip people to gather, analyze and critically evaluate information; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, professional library education should include training in the implementation of information literacy programs.

18. DIVERSITY

WHEREAS, publicly-supported libraries contain information resources for the community; and

WHEREAS, diversity plays an important role in society; and

WHEREAS, many segments of society are under served by libraries; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, libraries must demonstrate an awareness and sensitivity to broad information needs of diverse populations by employing pro-active outreach to empower disenfranchised and under served populations.

19. DIVERSE WORK FORCE

WHEREAS, the workforce will be comprised of more minorities, women and immigrants; and

WHEREAS, some libraries have not kept pace with these changes; and

WHEREAS, A diverse population must be information literate to be productive; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, libraries will acquire, distribute and make available services and information to meet the needs of this changing, diverse workforce.

20. SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL INFORMATION

WHEREAS, there is a mandate for changing existing federal programs to increase productivity; and

WHEREAS, high-quality information is essential in promoting productivity; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for libraries to maintain up-to-date information for the benefit of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States must be able to compete effectively in the new global economy; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT libraries should increase the speed and efficiency with which they provide current scientific and technical information.

21. FEDERAL INCENTIVES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, to enable libraries to effectively address the growing literacy problem in the nation, Congress should increase funding for literacy programs and training of library staff to be sensitive to the special needs of the functionally illiterate; require state governments to match all federal funds on at least a one-to-one basis; encourage the private sector to help establish and support literacy programs through federal tax incentives; and direct the Department of Education to actively encourage the development and distribution of materials appropriate to adult literacy training.

22. CLEARINGHOUSE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, a national clearinghouse of culturally-sensitive, multi-lingual, multi-cultural literacy materials should be established.

23. DIVERSIFIED FUNDING

WHEREAS, libraries must provide new or expanded services to maximize their community impact; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, libraries should diversify sources of funding.